



The

ONYX

Informer

December 2001

Serving the
People of the
African Diaspora
Since 1972

Provost Hall Steps Down

After four years of service as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, David Hall has decided to step down and take on a faculty role at the end of this academic year. In an e-mail letter sent to the University Community by President Freeland, informed of Hall's departure as Northeastern University Provost. Enclosed below is what Freeland had to say about Hall stepping down.

"I regret to announce that our friend and colleague David Hall, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, has decided to step back into a faculty role at the end of this academic year.

For four years as our provost David has done much to help Northeastern achieve our aspirations and stay on course toward top-100 status. It is in part because of his unflagging support and energy that the Co-op Call to Action is making excellent progress. It was through his leadership that the Practice-Oriented Education conference was such a success and that we are moving ahead with a multifaceted plan to institutionalize practice-oriented education.

David has provided Northeastern with leadership in ways that will continue to have an impact for years to come. He was instrumental in the development of the Action and Assessment

Plan, a document that has focused the unit planning process and that will continue to guide us in our decision-making. He assumed the overall leadership for our conversion to a semester calendar, a project that touches every process in the entire university.

David has been a strong and passionate advocate for excellence in both teaching and research. He has stressed the importance of quality and funded a Teaching with Technology initiative to encourage faculty members to be at the forefront of what is possible in the classroom. Recently he has spearheaded a retention initiative that provides a

multi-pronged effort to enhance students' success. He has been instrumental in the establishing of a mentoring program for new faculty members to allow them to thrive at Northeastern. David has championed faculty scholarship, initiating the establishment of three new research institutes and streamlining the institutional support that researchers get from Northeastern. He has been a strong advocate of increased diversity among the faculty and student bodies. He has done all

these things without forgetting that he is dealing with human beings, in all their complexity. And because of this, he has earned the respect of all who have worked with him.

It is with deep gratitude that we thank David for giving us four years of outstanding service in making Northeastern a better place. We have benefited from his leadership, his diligence, his knowledge, and his heart. We have been inspired by his eloquent voice. We wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

A search for a new Provost will begin almost immediately. I will keep you informed on the process."



Provost Hall will assume a faculty position at the end of this academic year.

Refugees Remember

A group of refugees from countries including Ethiopia, Liberia, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Zambia, Rwanda, Congo, Cameroon, Haiti, Bosnia, among others, converged on historic Faneuil Hall in Boston, with chants, poems and songs on October 20, 2001. The Universal Human Rights International of Boston, Massachusetts organized this event, which commemorated the passage of 40 days since the September 11, 2001 attack on America. In many cultures, the 40th day after death marks the end of mourning. The participants represented many cultures, races, languages, religions and nationalities, and came from as far away as Summerset, New Jersey

See Refugee Pg. 3

BESS Reaching Out

by: Princess Cooper-Brown
Onyx Staff

Moving forward in the tradition of staying connected and staying committed to our younger brothers and sisters, the Black Engineering Student Society (BESS), is reaching out to one of our neighboring high schools, City on a Hill Charter. Talks are underway between school officials and BESS to charter a NSBE Jr. Chapter with the high school, in accordance with the National Society of Black Engineers' (NSBE) Pre-College Initiative Program.

The Pre-College Initiative (PCI) Program provides a formal vehicle through which NSBE collegiate and alumni (professional) members can encourage pre-college students to develop interests and skills in math and science. Many of the goals and benefits of the PCI Program with other programs directed at pre-college students are in conjunction with those of Northeastern University; especially in the areas of community service and student recruitment/retention efforts.

Among the many goals and benefits, the PCI Program is focused on enhancing students' skills in the areas of leadership, academic excellence, and technical excellence.

BESS is a chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers.

Meetings:

Thurs @ 7pm, 333 Curry Student Ctr

Website: www.nsbe.neu.edu

E-mail: bess@coe.neu.edu

Election Sweeps Away Entire LICAM Board of Directors

Election Sweeps Away Entire LICAM Board of Directors. New President Sees Victory for Community.

Liberians from across Massachusetts converged on Sunday, November 11, 2001 to elect their leaders. Over 250 members representing cities and towns across Massachusetts participated in the process.

Up for grabs was the administration with six vacancies and the board of directors, with five vacancies. Liberians, including seniors and youths came from Worcester, Franklin, Cambridge, Framingham, Fall River, Lowell, Brockton, Randolph, Salem, Lynn, Boston, and Shrewsbury, among other Massachusetts cities. After nearly twelve hours of voting, the five-member

Elections Commission, headed by Mrs. Christine Idiokitas declared the results, which swept away all members of the old board of directors.

The newly elected members of the Board of Directors of LICAM are: Mr. Harris Yuan of Lynn, Sam Stevequoah of Lowell, Mickey Idiokitas of Roxbury, Delores Adighibe of Mattapan and Lester McClain of Boston. The incumbent president, Mr. Richard Saydee, was elected along with Vice President-elect Rev. Tyler Mitchell. Also elected were Mr. Nathaniel Sayon, Financial Director; Emmanuel Jackson; Corresponding Secretary; John David, Re-

cording Secretary; Sesay Johnson, Parliamentarian; and Pastor Nenkerwon Troh, Chaplain. The tenure of all officers of the Liberian Community Association of Massachusetts (LICAM) is two years.

In remarks at a reception at his residence, President-elect Richard Saydee was guarded: "A leader was chosen. There was no individual winner-the community has won. It's time to come together and begin building a united community." Mr. Vivian C. Jones, member of the Election Commission was upbeat about the process. "The election was fair. It was a learning pro-

cess."

The election of 2001 was different because for the first time, the board members were elected outside the Boston circle. Mr. Sam Stevequoah, a board member elected from the city of Lowell was blunt. "This is the first time that all Liberians across Massachusetts have freely participated in an electoral process to elect members that reflect the Commonwealth. The winds of change are blowing across Massachusetts. We look forward to cooperation from members of the Liberian community to make changes that would benefit everyone," Mr. Stevequoah said.

directory

WORLD BRIEFS PG. 3

CAMPUS RACISM PG. 6

SOUL SPEECH PG. 10

SPEAK OUT PG. 4

HEALTH PG. 7

THE HATER PG. 11

BUSINESS PG. 5

MOBB DEEP PG. 9

SPORTS PG. 12



Misconceptions of a Haitian

by: **Syndie J. Cinc**
Onyx Contributor

To be an African-American in today's society, one is labeled and categorized to the point that it has become common knowledge that one must work twice as hard to prove one's self not only competent, but also equal to the Americans of European descent. In this struggle to be successful and be distinguished, African-Americans as a group have lost touch with their sense of unity. We victimize our brothers and sisters of different cultural backgrounds by putting them through open discriminations.

If one were to walk past room 433 of the Curry Student Center between six and seven on a Tuesday evening, nothing out of the ordinary would be seen. Instead, one would notice simply a gathering of college students of diverse background drowned in thought. The group, even with apparent differences, has a strong bond. Most of these students are of Haitian descent, meaning they trace their lineage to the Republic of Haiti. This bond is often the reason why they are sometimes stereotyped, ridiculed, and even at times not considered part of the "black" community. This is the price they must pay for being Haitian in America.

Many people believe that all there is to Haiti and Haitians are what they see on CNN and Dateline. They see images of a Third World country populated with poverty and famine-struck beings and assume that there is nothing more. This information absorbed and stored helps in formulating ridiculous statements such as "all Haitians have AIDS", "Haitians don't shower", and "You

don't look Haitian". Many often become puzzled and baffled when someone of Haitian descent does not take their comments lightly but instead becomes very defensive and is insulted. Haitians have worked to dismantle falsehoods and strive to be accepted as a valuable ingredient in the melting pot called America, but their efforts seem to have been in vain.

Haiti is a very beautiful island quite similar to any of its neighbors in the Caribbean. It is rich with natural resources, but it proves not to be enough of a defense against attacking forces determined to rot the land and its people. The cost of living in Haiti is greater than what most of the populace earns working. Also, political complications and problematic government cause the island to have constant internal battles, resulting in nothing else but trails of shed blood. These are some of the reasons why Haitians immigrate to the United States. They are not abandoning their country wishing to "infest" America, they usually come in order to work and send money back to their relatives. They desire to help those still on the island to better their quality of life.

It is argued that Haitians are responsible for harsh treatment given to them. This is to say that Haitians purposefully exclude themselves from the rest of America with no intention of assimilating. This is definitely not true. Most Haitians have a great desire to successfully integrate with American soci-

ety, but it proves to be extremely difficult. Primarily, because of the language barrier, Haitians have no choice but to rely on each other when first coming to America; English isn't the easiest language to learn. Secondly, people are generally attracted to others with whom they share interests or background. Haitians choose not to lose what they dearly value: their heritage. This does not mean at all that they wish to exclude all other people from their lives.



Palace Ruins are one of many beautiful sites in Haiti.

Haitians put to the plate what they have to offer to America — their food, their language, their music, and their diversity, and hope nothing more than to be accepted. Their offspring are Americans, yet they are still treated far differently. They are raised to be proud of where they come from, and parents urge them not to forget that, but Haitian parents never teach their children that they are better than others in the black community are.

We cannot continue to live as crabs in a barrel holding each other down, but instead we must help push each other up and out and reach back for those who helped us. Regardless if you call yourself African-American, Jamaican, Trinidadian, Nigerian, Liberian, or Haitian, we are all one people. The national motto of the Republic of Haiti is "L'Union Fait la Force", this translates to "In Union There IS Force". Haitians have known this since the year we gained our independence from France, becoming the first black republic in the Western Hemisphere, it's time we all realize this.

Ronné Partick

Heads Undergrad Admissions

Ronné Patrick has been appointed dean of the office of undergraduate admissions. Patrick, originally from Brooklyn, New York, received her undergraduate degree in social and behavioral sciences from Johns Hopkins University, and earned her Master's degree in social foundations of education from the University of Maryland.



Prior to her appointment at Northeastern, she was the associate director of marketing at the University of Maryland's office of undergraduate admissions, where she managed a budget of \$2.4 million and 14 full-time staff.

Patrick says she was attracted to Northeastern because of faculty, staff and students sense of community and commitment. "Everyone seems really excited to be here," said Patrick. "I want to help NU achieve its institutional goals."

Patrick, a member of the Black Faculty and State Association at the University of Maryland, served on the College Board Middle State Regional Association as a faculty member. In addition, she is a member of the National Association for College Admissions Counseling and serves as the president-elect of the Potomac & Chesapeake Association for College Admissions Counseling.

Patrick is working to help NU reach its institutional goals.

Raising Community Consciousness... Together

by: **Princess Cooper-Brown**
Onyx Staff

There has always been much debate as to how communities, in particular Black and Latino communities, go about building wealth. Education had generally been the answer...educate the children because they are the future. However relevant that theory may be, what kind of education and understanding is needed? Where are the best places to gain this education, and what is the best way to utilize it?

The first step is always to appreciate the value and power knowledge commands. The second step is to share what we know with those who don't know. A very important concept in the area of business is that of *knowledge management*, or more appropriately named *knowledge sharing*. These terms describe how businesses, as small as a corner store or as large as Microsoft, realize and utilize the increased value gained through sharing knowledge throughout their organization. Many top level executives have moved into this mind set to take advantage and facilitate, as much as possible, the sharing of knowledge and skills throughout the organization's community. This concept is based on the fundamental truth that

people are the organization's most valuable asset.

Why aren't we all doing more to share what we have with one another, as the common goal should be, "as I rise, you rise with me"? Participating in community service activities or participating in activities, organizations, or causes that are for the betterment of our communities and people as a whole should *always* be our long-term goals — but long term goal doesn't imply that you set it aside until later. As important as it is to plan for tomorrow, we need to be just as committed in our actions today!

There are numerous ways for anyone to contribute to society, whether by working with children, working with adults, helping to build homes, helping care for the ill, helping care for the environment, or as a Northeastern University community member, working together and communicating with each other. Community service organizations and initiatives are looking for people to donate their time and abilities everyday. Not only are these opportunities beneficial for the community in which they help, these opportunities are also beneficial for you. You gain experience, you develop relationships, you increase your network, you make yourself more visible and marketable, and you develop

a profile that is looked favorably on by employers.

In the United States, there are a disproportionate number of people that do not have access to the Internet; this trend has become nationally known as the Digital Divide. Two such organizations in the Boston area are working towards a common goal of bridging the Digital Divide, NU/Fleet Community Link Project and Community Technology Centers' Network (CTCNet). On Saturday, November 3, 2001, CTCNet made a presentation at the National Society of Black Engineers' New England Zone Conference for its CTCNet Support Project. Their purpose was to bring technology-related service opportunities to the conference participants. On Wednesday, November 6, 2001, representatives from the NU/Fleet Community Link Project held an informational session with members from the National Association of Black Accountants and the Black Engineering Student Society to inform and recruit Volunteer Student Training Assistants.

There is an overwhelming need in all aspects of society for those willing to donate their time, energy, or resources to help others. In this age of emerging technologies and e-commerce, our societies are becoming more and more dependent on computers and the

Internet. However, there are still many people who do not have those resources or skills readily available. To stem the growing gap of this Digital Divide, more volunteers are needed to increase the technical literacy and computer skill development in whatever ways we can. **GET INVOLVED!** Whether in the organizations mentioned, or in organizations that are more centered on your personal interests, **GET INVOLVED.**

To learn more about Fleet CommunityLink

The project is designed to train adult members of the community in beginner and intermediary computer skills by working through an intensive financial literacy and money management curriculum. For information: njerimacharia@hotmail.com or Njeri Macharia at 617-327-0399

To learn more about CTCNet (Community Technology Centers' Network)

CTCNet's Support Project is looking for skilled, passionate people willing to donate their time to provide technical support to nonprofit technology centers; and to assist with needs such as trouble shoot hardware/software, teaching, volunteer recruitment, public relations, fundraising, etc. www.ctcnet.org For information: volunteer@ctcnet.org or Trang Lee at 617-354-0825 x 17

ONYX World Briefs

Around the Globe Headlines

The world is before you and
you need not take it or leave it
as it was when you came in.

- James Baldwin

BRAZIL:

The City of Esperantina, located in Brazil, has officially approved an annual Orgasm Day. Each year on May 9, the city's 35,000 residents will be asked to work harder to achieve sexual satisfaction. The city council passed the law after Councilor Arimateia Dantas surveyed the city's women and found only 28 percent had orgasm during sex. Liberal government in Brazil allow for this exact follow-up compared to conservative, local government of Boston.

MIDDLE EAST:

The United Nations says Middle East homeland remains highly dangerous for civilians. Although Afghan refugees have started returning from Iran to their homes in the west of the country, tens of thousands are still trying to flee from the east into Pakistan. U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, Rudd Lubbers, said Afghanistan "was not at all a secure environment." Approximately 1,000 people a day were crossing from Iran into western Afghanistan, which he said was safer than the rest of the country.

Conditions for people still inside Afghanistan's borders remain extremely difficult, with hundreds of thousands of people uprooted by air strikes on city targets.

Efforts are being made to feed some 274,000 people living in isolated villages. Although not all are starving, the winter has started adding to the existing problems of hunger. The aim is to build up a stockpile of some 2,000 tons of food to get the people through the fierce Afghan winter.

MASSACHUSETTS:

New Bedford. Twenty-five people in the New Bedford area have contracted Hepatitis A and several Swansea restaurants are being considered as likely causes. The New Bedford Standard Times reported several of the infected people, including the store manager, ate at a D'Angelo's in Swansea. Of the confirmed cases, 13 were in Swansea, four in Somerset, and eight in New Bedford and Fall River. Hepatitis A can be transmitted by eating at a restaurant where an infected employee touches food without washing his or her hands after using the bathrooms. (Metro)

Boston. Massport will hold three public hearings this week on Tobin Bridge tolls, which are scheduled to increase from \$1 to \$2 on January 1. Chelsea and Charlestown residents will continue to pay a lower fee of 30 cents.

Massport agreed to hold the first hearing today at 4pm at the MBTA building at North Shore Community College, all the behest of legislators from that area.

The second will be held tomorrow at 7pm at the Knights of Columbus in Charlestown and the final meeting will be Thursday at 7pm in the auditorium of Chelsea High School. (Metro)

VIRGINIA:

It is evident that terrorism fears are leading to more gun permits. The number of applications for concealed weapons permits in the South Hampton Roads area tripled last month,

compared to the same season last year. The number of Norfolk residents who got permits grew 63 percent. This rapid increase has been attributed to fears of personal safety after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Belgium:

A woman stalked her ex by phoning him every time he got in the bath. She lived next door to her former lover and called his phone every time she heard the bath running.

A court in Brugge, Belgium, gave her a suspended sentence and a fine after convicting her of stalking.

The 51-year-old became lovers with her neighbor but they split up and she took revenge by calling him every time he got in the bath, the court said.

Canada:

A man started firing his gun when his attempts to put up the Christmas lights went wrong.

James Craig Wilson started shooting his .45-calibre pistol after his daughter ran over the lights in her car, at their Vancouver home.

Police arrested the 47-year-old on suspicion of reckless endangerment.

Mr Wilson says he told his wife not to be upset while he shot some rounds in the back garden to let off steam.

He also sent his daughter across the street to tell a police officer neighbour that no-one had been hurt.

Soon after, five other officers arrived and arrested him. "I thought discharging my gun would help me discharge my anger," he said. "I guess I'm going to lose my concealed weapons permit."

Refugee, from Pg.1

and Maine. They have survived some of the worst atrocities of the 20th century and came to share their experiences through poems and songs for the healing of wounds inflicted by the September 11 attack.

Betsey Chace, Community Liaison Officer at the Massachusetts State Office for Immigrants and Refugees and Torli Krua welcomed the poets and singers to the City of Boston. According to Mr. Krua, the significance of the event is rooted in the need for healing and peace in times of great fear following the terrorist attack. Krua said, "This land has offered solace, comfort, freedom and a second chance to so many refugees fleeing war, death and suffering. Refugees of war who know terror, grief, survival and rebuilding can, at this time, offer solace, comfort and hope to America with poems and songs from their experiences as survivors and plot the course for peaceful co-existence."

Ms. Aida Bukvic, Davor and Daco, all Bosnian nationals, kicked off the event with a series of Bosnian songs. This was followed by Mr. Saah N'Tow, a Liberian-born poet from Providence, Rhode Island, who recited many of his poems, including "When the Storm Calms." Saah, is studying the effects of poems on the healing process of traumatized refugees.

The ninety-minute event attracted hundreds at the historic Faneuil Hall of Boston. A highlight of the event was the performance of a youth group from Portland, Maine called the *Voices of Angels* with nationals of Zambia, Rwanda and Congo. They warmed the cold Boston morning with hot Swahili and Lingala songs.

The Onyx would like to extend congratulations to the winners of the DIVERSITY ESSAY COMPETITION!

Winning 1st Place: Daniel Birichi
Middler, Computer Engineering Major

Winning 2nd Place: Eric Esteves
Senior, Management Information Systems Major

Winning 3rd Place: Christina Passalacqua
Sophomore, Pharmacy Major

Speak Out

ANTI-BLACK Movement: An International Phenomenon

by: Zhelinrentice L. Scott
MIT Student

Dorothy Lewis, the national co-chair of the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA) came to MIT this past April. She came to debate the claim that the United States of America's role in slavery has left an overdue debt with the descendants of US slaves. Former liberal turned conservative David Horowitz argued against this claim. This piece is not about reparations; it is about a few new things I learned from the debate. One issue that Ms. Lewis raised was this Anti-black feeling that permeates society.

The American Dream that one can work hard and pull themselves up by their bootstraps to be successful and productive members of society. The thought of an anti-black feeling in this democratic society we all know, as the USA, is appalling. However, the truth hurts. This anti-black feeling is complex and disturbing to me.

On an international level Africa is being ripped apart mentally and physi-

cally. The racism that formed the basis for the justification of the mass genocide in Rwanda is a part of the mental and physical destruction of black people. Physically, AIDS is wiping out Africa's population exponentially and help is minimal. The President of Zimbabwe is still receiving criticisms for its successful land grant program. Many Zimbabweans are thriving. They have stopped starving and are building up the economy in the process.

On a national level, the Anti-black feeling continues. In the month of March the House republicans led by representatives John Boehner (R-OH) and Peter Hoekstra (R-MI) presented a plan to place Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) under the auspices of a new panel that oversees youth violence, child abuse and other social programs. This proposal implies that Historically Black Colleges and Universities are "social programs" that have no educational value. This proposal completely disregards the history of the HBCUs. The HBCUs were founded be-

cause the Northeastern and Harvard Universities of the past were racist and would NOT admit African Americans, or any other person of non-white descent. In order for the US to be a true democracy, where equal opportunity actually exists, it must treat ALL universities and colleges with dignity and respect.

HBCUs were a solution to the racism and discrimination that this country was built on. Education isn't the only place where anti-black feelings appear. The justice system and police departments across the country are jailing and killing blacks for anything. Why is it that there are two different sets of punishments for cocaine? The cheaper form of crack has a higher penalty than for the more expensive version of powder cocaine. Finally, racial profiling is killing more and more people of African descent every day. Why is it that so many unarmed black men and women, both police officers and civilians, are being killed by white police officers?

It is not hard to find the anti-black

movement alive and well on the local level finds the anti-black movement alive in well. Proposition 209 destroyed race as one factor considered out of many when it comes to admission to colleges. Scientific studies have shown that the higher a parent's income the higher the SAT.

American history and embraced by everyone? Why did President Freeland opt not to tell the students of color directly of his decision, and only provided further possibilities for the JDOBAI when the students demanded it? President Freeland's show of disrespect for the history and legacy of the institute, is a conscious or a subconscious Anti-black feeling. This feeling has forged a movement against Blacks Americans starting with the close of the Civil War.

Before I end this I want to make two points clear. Firstly, I don't subscribe to the belief that all white people are horrible and anti-black. In fact, there are many that care about their fellow man. These are individuals who actively try to end racism and the anti-black movement that has given birth to the KKK, racial profiling, red lining, the glass ceiling, and the attacks on the success of black people. Many of my personal friends and organizations like the National Conference of Community and Justice (www.nccj.org) and CURE (www.cure.org) have been engaging in anti-racist activities. This proves that whites are individuals. They have the power to be passively racist or actively anti-racist. Secondly, there are black people who are anti-black.

William Julius Wilson, on the faculty of the Harvard JFK School of government is the author of "When Work Disappears." In this book he related the content of a plethora of interviews he had with several black employers in the inner city. It is clear that even black people won't hire black people based on the stereo types they are fed and believe.

David Horowitz's ad was first published at Brown University where Dr. Ruth Simmons, an African American Woman, is the president. I wonder if she feels comfortable in a place where the school newspaper is a vehicle for inflammatory speech about blacks in the name of intellectual discourse and first amendment rights.

Oppression of people of color is nothing new. The Australian Aborigine, New Zealand's Maoris and the African-American have suffered at the hand of this anti-black movement. I wonder why the people who are currently against reparations and affirmative action, accuse blacks of being racist as a race, and in the same breath have no proposals to today's racism that the Kerner Report described as "an institution not created by the Negro." I wonder: why more white people have not gotten up in arms about the current human rights violations that oppress American people?

The only answer that I can think of is that the anti-black movement is alive and well.

Have something on your mind? Do you want to be heard?

You can do it through The Onyx Informer

All you need to do is ... SPEAK OUT!

Send your letters to: onyxinformer@yahoo.com

Please limit submissions to 600 words maximum.

A Month of Reflection

by: Hayden Frederick-Clarke
Northeastern Junior

Racism used to be a reckless, malicious little boy, but while we have slept, he has successfully matured into a calculated genius, a grown man with children. In the month of April 2001, while few have paid attention or made sufficient noise, he has blessed us graciously with three very clear reminders that the lives of ordinary "black" people are worthless here in our "home of liberty and justice for all(?)". Surely they have come at an opportune moment since the illusions of equality and progress, personal complacency, and "darkies" (and "lighties", too) in the media and entertainment serve as obstacles to any effective, permanent change in the world's dominant culture, i.e. white supremacy. Sadly, the most egregious problem might not be the message of the reminders itself, but instead that the message was not taken seriously enough. One would hate to think that it has not been conveyed well enough.

The murder of Timothy Thomas, a 19 year old, (of course) "black" man by a white officer, Stephen Roach, is a reminder of how little "our" lives mean in this absurd land. Thomas was unarmed when he was killed, yet the executing officer claimed he feared for his life since Thomas had reached for his

waist. For what? Thomas, the model criminal, was wanted for several misdemeanor violations, most of them *traffic charges*. Is it coincidence that the Cincinnati police department has killed fourteen other men since 1995, (of course) all black? The officers involved in these deaths must have feared for *their own* lives also.

Adding insult to injury, Police Commissioner Bernard Kerik of New York decided not to discipline the four officers that murdered Amadou Diallo, Kenneth Boss, Sean Carroll, Edward McMellon, and Richard Murphy. They will be simply retrained in tactics. No dismissal. Nothing. This should not come as too much of a surprise considering the case's treatment by the justice system. Convinced with the officers' story that all four of them feared for their lives, since they had believed the unarmed Diallo was reaching for a gun (sound familiar?), a jury in Albany acquitted the four officers of criminal charges. Similarly the United States Justice Department decided that federal civil rights charges were unnecessary. Conclusion: fire 41 shots at an unarmed African, pierce his flesh with 19 bullets, walk free, thank the feds, keep your job, even get retraining!

On April 24, the Supreme Court ruled in the case of Atwater v. City of

Lago Vista that police can handcuff and arrest civilians for minor offenses, like not wearing a seat belt, that are normally punished by fine. One would be very naïve to assert that the politically apt five justices that passed the ruling do not understand the implications their decision will have in light of widespread racial profiling throughout the country. In opposition to the ruling fellow Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor argued that, "as the recent debate over racial profiling demonstrates all too clearly, a relatively minor traffic infraction may serve as an excuse for stopping and harassing an individual." Giving no heed to their other four comrades' advisory, Rehnquist, Scalia, Thomas, Kennedy, and Souter decided to make any journey a "black" male takes a potentially dangerous one. Obviously, racial profiling is a "black" problem, not an American one.

Remember Du Bois' statement that Africans in America have two inherently conflicting interests: that of the American, and that of the "Negro." Which shall we choose? Is a call to nationalism appropriate now? Perhaps. We certainly should not be sleepwalkers, unaware and/or unaccepting of the dominant attitude towards us. Awareness and acknowledgement are precursors to change.

ONYX BUSINESS

Don't feel entitled to anything you didn't sweat and struggle for.

- Marian Wright Edelman

Growing Businesses

by: Jose Masso

Onyx Staff

Growing Businesses was supposed to be a conference about fostering business growth in low-income communities, but did not quite arrive at that stature. The event was hosted by Northeastern University's Center for Technological Entrepreneurship and Center for Urban Entrepreneurship. It was more of a seminar with shameless plugs and technological talk. Not once did I hear of a decent plan to help businesses in low-income communities grow. There were people on the panel who dealt with inner city communities, but they did not discuss what they have done to help these low-income communities prosper. Instead they spoke more about what they personally did to get ahead and how they plan to help entrepreneurs who already have businesses, grow. Their main focus should have been on how to help the people within the communities start businesses.

They were more focused on the "feed them fish for a day" mentality, instead of "teach them how to fish". Seldom did they address the emerging majority (minorities), and when they did, we were referred to as "people of color". A combination of more infor-

mation and the right panelists could have saved this from happening. To top it off, the keynote speaker was Chris Delprince, CEO of Delprince Fashions.

Here was a man who grew up in the inner city neighborhoods of Buffalo, New York. This is where he sold watches and clothing out of the trunk of his car. (Sound familiar?) He then moved up to starting a diaper delivery service. Targeting the minority community, he began to focus on selling urban apparel that will cater to African-Americans, Hispanics (not Latinos), and "anybody who wants to dress phat". The store he opened, called Lifestyle Street Gear, grew from a trunk to a chain of seven stores with one located in

Pennsylvania. Sounds real interesting, wonderful, can't wait to hear the story, but the whole time before his speech, I'm looking for Chris and can't see him.

When the speaker introduced him, I thought he was going to come from the ceiling because I didn't see the Chris he spoke of in sight. Yet he was there. Chris Delprince is an Italian American who is making profit in low-income neighborhoods, but could not tell what he is doing to help the people that made him rich. When asked what he does for the community, he answered with "I throw concerts and special events for the

community." Assuming that he makes money off these concerts, and still doesn't know who lives in his community, this answer did not sit well with me. Then when asked if he employs people from his community, the answer was "Absolutely!" that is why he is where he is today. His employees are people from the community, so when other people shop there they feel comfort because they know who is behind the register. (I hope they give them a hook up!) He never mentioned that he has people in his community working in the "backroom", which is the corporate structure of his company; he only mentioned that "Jose (one of his employees) won't think that kids are coming into the store to steal".

For the icing, the fork, and the "phat" lady, he had a slang dictionary, including the words "phat", "fly", and "5-0", for those big and little wigs who are not "hip" to that sort of lingo. Crazy and pissed off could not sum it up for me. I was very displeased with the way that they would put on an event concerning businesses in low-income communities, and yet not have one person from the community that owned a business within a low-income community speak. They did not give ideas on how to increase the education within these communities, nor how to implement entrepreneurial strategies within the community. The idea of the event was good, but they also say that the road to hell is paved with good intentions.

Resume Tips

Gaps in Work History Need to be Explained

Monster.com made recent statements concerning work experience gaps on resumes. Many people who are trying to re-enter the workforce have gaps in their work history that should be filled in. Employers will overlook gaps of a few months in an applicant's work history, but if someone trying to get a new job has gaps of a year or more, he or she may need to explain that hole.

In the event that an applicant

has such gaps, monster.com suggests three main tactics:

1. The potential employee should show that his or her job skills are up-to-date and that he or she is up on the latest industry developments.
2. Demonstrate that tasks undertaken while unemployed – whether volunteer work or family management – can be applied to the sought-after job.
3. Be sure not to sound apologetic about being unemployed, whatever the reason.



Inception of The Alliance of Black Student Professionals

In the summer of 2000, discussions began occurring among the leaders of a few minority graduate and student professional organizations. On November 15, 2000, this budding network held its first conference call. The leaders of the National Black Law Students Association, the National Society of Black Engineers, the Student National Dental Association, and the Student National Medical Association shared their organizations' history and activities and discussed how this network could become an official partnership. They then set out on a quest to identify the leaders of

Gracia, SNMA National President, met in Alexandria, Virginia, at NSBE's National Headquarters. Working into the evening, they prioritized the issues of critical importance to all of their organizations and the communities they serve and discussed a preliminary agenda of the partnership.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Alliance of Black Student Professionals was formed, with the following Statement of Purpose:

~ To increase the number of people of African descent practicing in the professions of our member organizations.

~ To lead in the preparation, recruitment, retention, and promotion of students of African descent.

~ To exert influence on institutions that have the capacity to positively impact this organization's objectives.

~ To act as a catalyst in identifying so-

cial ills that disproportionately affect people of African descent and galvanizing efforts to eradicate these inequalities.

~ To promote the advancement of our member organizations and the members they serve.

Charged with this Statement of Purpose, the Alliance quickly identified education and educational disparities as its first national initiative. Blacks and other minorities continue to be underrepresented in higher education and most professions, to the detriment of society. Furthermore, the obstacles to reaching and succeeding in these professions are as great as ever before.

Since the January 20, 2001 founding, the Alliance has grown tremendously in the number of member organizations and affiliates. Through this partnership, the Alliance represents over 30,000 students nationwide. The philosophy of the Alliance is to speak with one voice on issues that universally impact the black student professional

population, to advocate for societal change toward the benefit of its communities, and to develop a network of future professionals of various fields. The spirit of the Alliance extends beyond the national leaders, permeating into the regions and local chapters of the member organizations nationwide. It is this spirit that will enable the Alliance to have a significant impact on the future direction of society.



Did You Know...

Paul Robeson was one of the most gifted men in history.

He was an athlete, actor, author, attorney, a scholar and a concert singer. Born in Princeton, New Jersey on April 9, 1898, Robeson showed that he was a man of many talents. He gave 226 performances as *Othello* on Broadway. He was subsequently recognized as an internationally famous singer and performed on concert stages throughout the world.

Robeson spoke and performed in over twenty languages and dialects, and became a spokesman throughout the world against exploitation, injustice, and racism. His attacks on injustice and racism in the United States became a severe international embarrassment to the United States government.

In 1950, the U.S. State Department revoked Robeson's passport.

and President Truman signed an executive order forbidding Mr. Robeson to leave the United States under penalty of five years in prison and a \$500 fine.

In 1958 Robeson left the United States for England and did not return until 1963. Throughout his lifetime he fought against all forms of racism and oppression perpetrated on Blacks in the United States. He died in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on January 23, 1976.



"Did You Know..." features a different individual who has made a major contribution to the African Diaspora in order to provide inspirational models for others to follow.

Stormy Monday Lecture Series

Northeastern's department of African American studies' decade-old Stormy Monday Lecture Series brings noted professors, graduate students and scholars to the university to showcase current research and scholarship. The department of African American studies also sponsors an undergraduate Stormy Monday Lecture Series that features the scholarship and research of Northeastern's undergraduate students.

Pedro Noguera, the Judith K. Dimon professor of communities and schools at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education, spoke on "The Role and Responsibility of Schools and Other Social Institutions in Responding to America's Youth Crisis," on Monday, November 5th at the Raytheon Amphitheater, Egan Engineering/Science Research Center.

Noguera's research focuses on the ways in which schools respond to social and economic forces within the urban environment. His courses address issues of race, ethnicity, and poverty as they impact schooling, teaching, and learning. Noguera has published and lectured widely on such topics as youth violence, race relations

within schools, the potential impact of school choice and vouchers on urban public schools and secondary issues resulting from desegregation in public schools. His articles have appeared in the Harvard Educational Review, Urban Review, Hastings Constitutional Law Journal, International Journal of Race and Ethnic Relations and the Journal of Social and Economic Studies. Noguera has been a member of the U.S. Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control Taskforce on Youth Violence, and chaired the Committee on Ethics in Research and Human Rights for the American Educational Research Association.

Co-sponsors of the Stormy Monday Lecture Series featuring Pedro Noguera included Northeastern's School of Education and the Latino/a Student Cultural Center. This lecture also featured panelists, Peter C. Murrell, associate professor of education and director of the Master of Arts in Teaching program at Northeastern; Farhoud Moshfegh, professor of violin and artistic director of Project STEP at the New England Conservatory of Music; and Alexander Lynn.

Racism... Is it Prevalent on Campus?

by: Jessica Stone
Onyx Contributor

Racial sensitivity is a major concern on college campuses today, students said at the opening of a two-day conference at Northeastern University on race relations, this past November.

The conference was held to address the challenges in creating racial harmony on college campuses, with an emphasis on increased discrimination against Muslims since September 11.

In a panel held by and attended exclusively by students, participants from several area colleges discussed their experiences with racism and potential ways to improve relations.

Panel moderator Eric Esteves, a Northeastern senior, said the avoidance of self-segregation would improve race relations. "More collaborations between different groups would help," he said. "A lot of groups don't attend each other's meetings."

Students said there are many occasions when a student is the only minority in a particular classroom, often leading to unnecessary tension.

"You become the token minority," said Kendra Quincy Kemp, a Dartmouth College senior. "People look at that one person who can represent that group."

Northeastern sophomore Hasan Mamun, a Muslim, experienced a similar situation in class following the Sept. 11 attacks. "I was put on

the spot as a representative of my country," he said. "I was just one of the students in the class. I didn't even know enough to comment."

Students said racial sensitivity is a familiar concern on campuses due to an increase in political correctness.

"The campus safety officer will be more sensitive to the black student because they don't want to be called racist," said Andrew Musoke, a Connecticut College sophomore.

Aside from race relations, the issue of recruiting minority students provoked a long discussion. Ashika

Jain, a senior at Brandeis University who chairs the college's Inter-cultural Club, said there is a lack of diversity at Brandeis.

"More minority students are applying, but our numbers keep dropping," Jain said. "Minority students need to go back and recruit."

Esteves, however, said apathy is not a problem among minority students. He cited a recent incident at Northeastern, in which students organized a sit-in to protest the demolition of the school's African-American Institute. "We pushed

the future of building to the forefront of the campus," he said.

The students debated whether or not it is worthwhile to educate non-minority friends and acquaintances about their backgrounds.

"You want to educate others, but it's not your job," said Denise Luma, a Northeastern sophomore.

While Luma and others said they often tire of explaining their backgrounds, Northeastern sophomore Rubens Amedee disagreed.

"Yeah it gets tiring," he said, "but that's why racism still exists."

Leaving their mark in history:

1894 - A. C. Richardson, a black inventor, invented the casket-lowering device.

1930 - The Nation of Islam is founded in Detroit, MI.

1939 - Grammy-winning singer and actress Tina Turner was born as Annie Mae Bullock in Nutbush, Tennessee.

1942 - Rock Musician Jimi Hendrix is born in Seattle, Washington.

1940 - The Supreme Court ruled in *Hansberry v. Lee* that Whites cannot bar Blacks from white neighborhoods.

1955 - Interstate Commerce Commission, banned segregation on buses and in terminals.

1967 - Carl Stokes was elected mayor of Cleveland, Ohio. His election made him the first Black elected mayor of a Major City.

1984 - New York Mets pitcher, Dwight Gooden won the Cy Young Award, making him the youngest pitcher

ONYX HEALTH

Injustice anywhere is a threat
to justice everywhere

- Martin Luther King

DYSMENORRHEA

From the Uchee Pines Institute

Painful menstruation is difficult to treat, not because the disorder will not yield to therapy, but because women have about the worst record of noncompliance to medical counsel with this disorder than with any other.

One important cause of dysmenorrhea is that of wearing improper clothing. Tight bands around the waist, hips, or thighs impede the circulation to the pelvic organs and increase the likelihood of painful menstruation. Also, the clothing of the extremities must be proper. There should not be one inch of chilled skin on the extremities any time during the month, not only during the menstrual period itself. The extremities should be covered with as many layers of clothing as is the trunk. To fail to do so is to cause the circulation to be imbalanced, and increase the likelihood of pelvic congestion and painful menstruation.

Most American women do not get sufficient exercise; this fact is second only to improper clothing in the cause of dysmenorrhea. A study showed that 75% of a group of 5,000 junior high school girls were either cured or had definite improvement of menstrual discomfort with simple bending and stretching exercises. The first exercise was stretching, done by touching the fingers to the ankles with the knees held straight. The second exercise was thrusting the leg backward as the arms were swung high over the head. These two

exercises performed 4-10 times daily, four times weekly for several weeks resulted in a 75% improvement rate. In the experience of research, one hour of useful vigorous labor out-of-doors daily has been more effective in curing dysmenorrhea than have calisthenics.

Posture is also important as a cure for painful menstruation, as reported in Archives of Surgery 46:611-613, May, 1943. The contracted ligaments give rise to compression of the nerves, which increases the symptoms of painful menstruation.

Dietary measures can be of great benefit, particularly since many of the things that irritate the gastrointestinal tract reflexively irritate the genitourinary tract. All irritants in the gastrointestinal tract such as spices, alcohol, aspirin, other drugs, hot pepper, vinegar, overeating, failure to chew properly, and any other matter known to irritate the gastrointestinal tract should be eliminated. Constipation should be corrected, particularly just prior to the onset of the menstrual period.

Rest and regularity are mandatory for the sufferer of dysmenorrhea. After the age of 20, eight hours of sleep or bed rest daily should be obtained. From childhood a pattern of regular bedtime and rising time without weekend or seasonal variation is the ideal order of life. Such a person rarely has difficulty with relaxing or sleeping. Regularity in all things is essential.

At least one bowel movement daily is ideal, two or more bowel movements being preferred. Fruits, vegetables, and whole grains are helpful in maintaining good bowel health. The avoidance of oil is advisable, particularly, since oil tends to cause red blood cell clumping, creating circulatory problems through the rich meshwork of tiny capillaries found in the reproductive organs. Fats also alter the platelet function of the blood, causing clotting of the blood to be improper, a condition that may lead to painful menstruation.

One should develop a good emotional outlook. A mature, vigorous, and healthy adult should be able to cope with any problems that are presented to her during a 24-hour day. With Divine aid and sympathetic understanding of family and friends, the individual should have the emotional equilibrium to cope with all of life's trials.

When painful menstruation occurs, a "hot half-hour bath" or a hot foot bath reaching the upper portions of the calf muscles using a deep bucket, tub or trash can, will very often provide complete relief. Warm or hot water as determined by experimentation are both acceptable for the hot water baths.

For more information, go to http://www.ucheepines.org/counseling_sheets

HIV Vaccines

by: Tyese L. Gaines
Onyx Contributor

About 700 people attended the 5-day World Aids conference in Trinidad and Tobago on October 27, 2001 to discuss access to medication, patient rights, discrimination, and the hot topic of HIV vaccines.

HIV vaccines are a hot topic because there are currently over 30 prototype vaccines undergoing human trials across the world. For instance, clinical trials in South Africa began in July 2000. Merck and Company began its phase I trials in the United States in February 2001. The infectious disease division of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has been performing studies since 1987, but are now in phase II.

HIV vaccines are also a hot topic because the statistics of those affected are incredible. Thirty-six million people in the world are living with the virus. HIV has already killed 16.5 million people, according to UNAIDS. Two percent of people living in the Caribbean (excluding Cuba) have HIV/AIDS. In Africa, there are presently 25.3 million people living with the virus. In a lot of these countries, the drugs currently available to slow down the disease process are too expensive for those who are ill to purchase on a consistent basis, if at all. An HIV vaccine could definitely serve

See HIV Pg. 8

What is a D.O.?

Most people have been going to doctors since birth, and probably had no idea whether their doctor was an M.D. or a D.O. Two types of physicians, two different degrees, what do they mean? M.D.s are allopathic physicians and D.O.s are osteopathic physicians. Both M.D.s and D.O.s are fully qualified physicians, licensed to perform surgery and prescribe medication in all 50 states. I know you're thinking, so... what's the difference?

That is the question that many Americans are attempting to answer. The American Osteopathic Association's (ADA) answer to this is an all out "Unity Campaign" to make the general public aware of the difference between M.D.s and D.O.s. The ads are expected to reach over 11 million consumers about two times a month for nine months. The ads can be found in The Oprah Magazine, Redbook, The Family Plus Edition of Reader's Digest, Self and Parents.

Instead of waiting for the ads to come out, The Onyx Informer has the opportunity to enlighten you now. The first thing to realize is that both types of physicians are very, very similar. After obtaining a Bachelors degree,

both D.O.s and M.D.s complete four years of basic medical education. Both D.O.s and M.D.s choose to practice in a medical specialty - family practice, obstetrics/gynecology, surgery, and so on - after completing a residency program. Also, both D.O.s and M.D.s must pass state licensing boards.

The difference lies in the "something extra" in four years of basic osteopathic medical education and even in osteopathic residencies. Osteopathic medical schools emphasize training students to view the patient as a whole person. Instead of only having your symptom or present illness treated with medication, D.O.s assess the entire health of their patients, including home and work environments.

Why is this so important? Each person is made up of many different aspects. The mind affects the body affects the mind and so forth. Osteopathic physicians are taught to understand how all of the body's systems are interconnected and how they affect each other. Just think about how physically bad you feel when you are mentally stressed or lacking sleep. Think about how tension from a long

day accumulates in your neck or back leaving you screaming for a massage. You cannot effectively treat one without the other. A major part of osteopathic training includes studying the musculoskeletal system, because it is a huge indicator and affector of what is going on with other body systems. Simple posture alignments can sometimes help other illnesses. The whole key to remember is that the human body can innately heal itself, and it is the physician's job to facilitate that natural process.

Another added bonus that D.D.s carry in their black bags is OMT or osteopathic manipulative therapy. Osteopathic manipulative therapy is combining the understanding of the body's interconnectedness and hands-on treatment. DMT can be used to ease pain in childbirth, subside low back pain, stretch tight muscles, move stagnant lymph fluid throughout the body, and much more. DMT is particularly important in preventative medicine, keeping patients healthy before an illness can develop.

Although there are some D.D.s who do not use OMT in their own practices, many hold onto the holistic

philosophies that the founder of osteopathic medicine, A.T. Still, preached back in 1847.

Therefore, while M.D.s also make excellent physicians, M.D.s and D.O.s can work together in providing complete care for their patients - taking advantage of each other's strengths and concentrating on wellness rather than illness.

For more information about osteopathic medicine, medical training, or to find a D.O. near you, visit <http://www.aoa-net.org>.

Contributed by Tyese L. Gaines, graduate student of Nova Southeastern University School of Osteopathic Medicine

If you have any
questions concerning
Health...Please feel
free to contact:
MAPS at...

minorityprehealth@hotmail.com

Universities Ban Smoking

Smoking in Residence Halls Being Banned by Many Universities

In a trend that has already started among many universities, smoking is being banned on many university campuses (administrative buildings, classrooms, and residence halls) in a process of providing a smoke free environment. Now this story is not to alarm you in anyway. Northeastern's Residential Life, and the University in general have not made any decisions on banning smoking in residence halls. So all the smokers out there have not to worry about at this point.

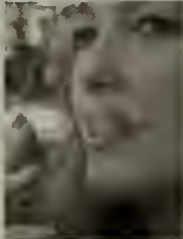
At the present time the universities has a very open policy on smoking. Detailed in the student handbook you will find the smoking policy outlined by the University. All University administrative and classroom buildings are a smoke-free and tobacco free area. Which basically mean there is no smoking allowed within the confines of the building. Residence hall and apartment buildings are not covered by this policy. Residents who reside on campus are allowed to smoke in their rooms with the consent of their roommates and their door closed.

In a national study that was conducted by the Harvard School of Pub-

lic Health provides many positive reasons in which have come from a smoke free housing environment. In the study it provides facts in which details that by having a smoke free housing environment, it allows non-smokers to avoid the addiction of while in college. It also states that by having such a living environment, it can also be a sign from the universities stand point that they are willing to help students stop smoking and help those who need help stopping kick their smoking habits.

Eighty-one percent of colleges prohibit smoking in all public areas, but only twenty-seven percent prohibit smoking in residence halls. Many of these schools prohibit smoking anywhere campus buildings altogether. As a result they have created a safe smoke area within the campus for smokers to smoke.

The steady rise in universities banning smoking in housing has been on a rise within the past three years. Could Northeastern be the next one. If you have an opinion about this just let us know how you would feel if such a situation would happen.



Twenty-seven percent of colleges prohibit smoking in residence halls.

Student Concerns

What Issues Do You Have With The University, and How Can We Make it Better?

Over the years, students here at Northeastern have expressed their dislike for many of the programs, departments, facilities, etc. that they have to deal with on a daily basis from the first day that they arrive here on campus. In a poll that was conducted by the Onyx Informer over the past month, we are able to bring to you the top five dislikes/problems about the university that students have expressed having problems with.

1. **Financial Aid** - Show me the money! Students want to know why it is so hard to get more money to pay for the ever-growing rate of a college education.

2. **Professors** - No English allowed! Many of the students have communicated that many of their professors don't speak English or have a hard time expressing their lectures in English so that students may understand.

3. **Residential Life** - When can I move in? Many students want to move on campus, so they don't have to deal with the problems of off campus housing. Only problem

is, there are currently no space, unless you're on that special waiting list.

4. **Cafeteria** - Same old, same old! Its that time of the year when the café becomes a little too predictable. Students are calling for the need to have other options to the dining hall meal plan other than fast food restaurants on campus.

5. **Residential Mail** - Northeastern or Bust! Getting mail is always a good thing, yet not receiving it is a bad thing. Many residents on campus have told us that they are not receiving mail and packages and if they are its not on a timely manner.

The above list is a list among many, in which details many problems that students have concerning the university and its operations.

If you have any concerns or problems with the university, just contact us at:

onyxinformer@yahoo.com

Let us know what concerns you have. We are here as a voice to the students. So contact us and let your concerns be heard.

The Onyx Informer is looking to for new members to fill staff positions for the new year.

Positions available are as follows:

STAFF WRITERS

PHOTOGRAPHERS

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

LAYOUT EDITORS

BUSINESS MANGER

DISTRIBUTION /CIRCULATION MANAGER

SPORTS EDITOR

CONTACT US AT:

ONYXINFORMER @YAHOO .COM

HIV from Pg. 7

to help this situation. Vaccine trials are the first step.

What does all this "phase" stuff mean? How do vaccine trials even work?

Before any phases begin, the science behind the research is done. Once that is complete, there are three phases of clinical trials.

Phase I uses a small number of volunteers (less than 50) at a few sites in the United States and abroad. During this phase, the safety of the drug and resulting side effects are tested. Whether or not it actually works against the virus is not tested. The volunteers in this phase have a very low risk of contracting HIV. This phase lasts for 12 to 18 months.

Phase II uses hundreds of volunteers of both low and high risk at a larger number of sites. Those of high risk include injection drug users, people having unprotected sex and/or multiple partners. Phase II simply expands on the information obtained from Phase I by testing the effects on the immune system. This phase lasts for 2 years.

Phase III uses thousands of volunteers, all high risk, from even more sites. The purpose of this phase is to determine how well the drug works and if it causes an immune response in those involved. This lasts for 3-4 years.

Who are the volunteers?

Volunteers must be from age 18 to 60, in generally good health, and a willingness to help. Their safety is protected by several groups who govern such trials - Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Community Advisory Boards (CAB), and Institution Review Boards.

Many volunteers are those who have seen what HIV/AIDS does with their own eyes, and lost a loved one in the process. As a result, they now want to spare others from the pain they experience by participating and helping find a cure.

For more information about HIV trials, visit <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov> or <http://www.htvn.org>

ON EDUTAINMENT

A word to the wise ain't necessary—it's the stupid ones who need advice.

- Bill Cosby

What Makes a Party...

by: P. Retty
Onyx Staff

A'ight so peep the scene: Party tonight at Regis. Lets set up the tasks: gotta get a line-up, look for somethin' jig, make sure I got enough deodorant, clean-up the kicks, and make sure there's enough gas in the car. If not, collection will be goin around for gas money. So after thinkin about this party all week, its time to let loose and forget about that test I just did the old "abacadaba" on. A'ight, I let all the boys know we gotta be ready by at least 10:00. Cause I'm not tryin to get there at 11:30, thinkin its cool to be fashionably late only to find out its full to capacity and no one is getting in unless you're cool with someone at the door. Cool, we get there by 10:30. Not too many people in line, the party sounds like it's live, and there's a cutie ahead of me in line. "Yo, Shizz, is that the chic from MIT?" "Yeah P, I think that is". "Word, I been thinkin about hollarin at her since that NU party we peeped her at last month, so you know we bout to be in there like swimwear!"

Finally, after payin, getting checked by the metal detector, and waitin for the fellas to catch up, we enter. It ain't packed yet, but it looks very promising. The DJ is doin his thing, playin the hottest ish, and keepin the crowd movin. Shorties is lookin proper, and the competition ain't a threat yet. I'm in my little "play it cool" mode, nah mean? Chillin, posted up against the wall peepin the scenario. Me and my man got our eyes on some females from Simmons, doin their thing. "Yo is that that new chic from NYC?" "Yeah,

shorty lookin good tonight! I'm gonna holla before the night is over" So like an hour passes and they're about to shut the doors for the night. I scope the clientele, and the competition. A'ight, so some how there ended up bein like twice as many dudes as girls. How did that happen? I'm sayin, Regis is an all girls school, so I figured the females might outnumber us. But then again, I guess all these dudes thought the same. Damn! I can't let this night be a complete waist, so I go make the best of it. Collected myself together, started walkin towards missy from MIT.

The DJ is playin that new joint by Mary J, and the party is lookin crunk, and vibin to the song. I pull up behind shorty, started doin my thing-thing. She ain't pulled away, so that's a good sign already. I'd hate to feel like an idiot, by goin up to a chic to dance, and she pulls away. That'll get you clowned by the fellas on the way home fo' shizzel. So we clickin a'ight for this song, and then the DJ throws on some reggae. Ooh... shorty starts to show me what she's workin with. Let's just pray wifey ain't up in here! We gettin into it now. So I turned around. I gotta show her what I'm workin with. Uh oh, what's this? A tag team? Who's this shorty comin from behind, makin me the meat in the sandwich? Hey, I keep on workin wit it though. I turn around thinkin its someone I know, and it's another dude! Whoa! What's that all about? I like to get down at parties, but not like that. This party is a little too tight on the dance floor. So after I got my little dance on with missy, I post back up on the wall

See Party Pg. 11

Big Little White Lies: Our Attempt to White-Out America

BOOK REVIEW

BIG LITTLE WHITE LIES forces Whites into a behavior of acknowledging what Black people have always had to do: examine self-identity from a racial point of view. This book features essays written in the first person that interrogates Whiteness in relation to Blackness. Furthermore, throughout each essay, all non-Black people of color who are not of European descent are referred to as simply White. The author herself, being an Arab-American, takes full responsibility for the racism she perpetuates simply because her ethnic group of color is swiftly inducted into Whiteness at the expense of Blackness.

Big Little White Lies goes on to describe everything from the evolutionary process of contemporary racism to

the meaning of the all-encompassing, yet elusive, concept of Whiteness. The author explains how it is impossible for the culture of White superiority to objectively judge unmastered Black men like Minister Louis Farrakhan. Also, racialized definitions of beauty and sexuality are given, as well as how the essence of Black creativity is routinely minstrelized by White culture.

In the end, Whites are challenged to face the racial existence that we've allowed ourselves to tolerate as a racially unacceptable version of reality.

CONTACT:
NEHMARCHE PUBLISHING
www.nehmarchepublishing.com
chehade17@hotmail.com
212-591-1122

Got Issues!

So what's the deal with body piercings? Is it just a fad or does it express a person's sexuality? Should people be more conscious of what they pierce or say to hell with what people think?

Now let's go down the list: you have tongue piercings, lip piercings, belly piercings, nipple piercings, and piercings of the genitalia. Some people say they get piercings to express their freedom, you know all that righteous stuff. And others say it is just a way to express themselves personally. During an interview with Janet Jackson on MTV, she was asked about her body piercings, and she said that her piercings express her sexuality. Now you be the judge.

There are common myths about why people pierce this and pierce that. There are also so-called "benefits" from piercing certain parts of your body. Piercing is an expression of who you are, or who you really are inside but don't let people know. Basically the undercover type. You could be a freak, in the oochie wally sense, a rebel, punk rocker, wannabe, or whatever, but it's all about you. It is quite all right to get any part

of your body pierced as long as you're happy with it. Like the old saying goes, "Whatever floats your boat!"... However, that doesn't mean all people feel that way.

You'll hear people, say that only freaky, kinky women get their tongues pierced. The female whose tongue is pierced must provide oral sex. If a guy has his tongue pierced, he either loves providing oral sex or he's gay. Pierced nipples, to some people, put a label on women as being whores or sluts. Why would you want to get one of the most sensitive parts of your body stuck

through with holes, unless you're trying to show your breasts off? Take this example: a female has her nipples pierced. She has on a body shirt. You know when a little wind hit's her chest with that tight shirt on what it will look like, so imagine that same scenario but with earrings on your nipples? Getting the picture? OK, now is that trash or class? You be the judge. That's her business, but you know what it will look like in the public eye. Although, people sometimes get piercings for no particu-

See Piercings Pg. 11

Mobb Deep Brings th e "Infamous" to Northeastern University

The Infamous M-O-B-B came to Northeastern to greet their fans and show some appreciation for all of their support. Promoting their latest album, "Infamy", scheduled to drop December 11, Mobb Deep came through to let their fans hear exclusive tracks from the album and to give out autographs. The event was supposed to jump off at 4:00 pm, but according to the North East Sony

representative "they were held up in traffic coming from another autograph signing in Amherst, MA". The 250-300 fans remained patient while they were entertained by the music selection of NU's own DJ Therion and the spontaneous "Freestyle Friday" battle. Yet as the hours passed, the fans grew impatient and only the hardcore fans stuck it out to meet and greet Queens Finest Prodigy, Havoc, Big Noyd, Twin. Even

Alchemist graced us with his presence. The event that took place at our own radio station WRBB 104.9FM, courtesy of It Bees Like That Entertainment and WRBB, went down without any incidents accruing. Everyone who stayed received an autograph and no-body was turned away.

Hubeaps-20inch rims rating system:
The Mobb Deep appearance gets 18inch rims and it gets kept

real clean!
Big shoutouts to those that helped out (ya'll know who) & to Hex Casiano (for repping NU's lyrical talent). *Shameless plugs, I know, but hey...*
In the next edition of Hang or Bang, I'll be looking at another Queens native when I analyze Nas's latest project to see if he is Stillmatic or if he needs to go back to the dungeons of rap. I'll also keep you posted with the latest events and local album reviews.



Mobb Deep drops the Infamy in December

SOUL SPEECH

"In The Fields" by: Joseph Banda

It caused pain in me. When I came three times three. Spoke tongues that I never knew. Wiping my eyes, crying for my creator. A tear exposed itself as if. To tell me that I was in the real. I felt the thunder that made me travel. Into a trance that seemed familiar. A sage spoke about cosmic objects and colors. A freak spoke about how she pleased the world. A teacher spoke about how to attain knowledge. A dreamer spoke about building an empire. Drifting away I found myself in a concrete jungle. Walking by a little girl with blood in her eyes. She stretched out her arms as if asking for food. I shook my head in denial. Then walked away and looked back. Falling to the ground & hemorrhaging. She cried for help. If I, should I, could I, it'll be all right. Stop lying to yourself. As a voice spoke out that this is why. I would perish and many that followed after. It's not my fault, whoever you are. Take me home now before t. Bricks slowly began slipping apart from the buildings. Piece by piece my thoughts were tossed away and shat-

tered. Passing strangers walked on in ignorance. Warped to a bed, tied up and nowhere to go. Naked to my evil past and humble beginnings. What's that in the window? Doctors horned carrying needles in their hands. We're here to help you son, don't worry. Drink this and you'll feel better. Hazy in understanding the situation at hand. My cross is missing and hope is gone. A book bedside entitled "When I see you there." Faded to the point of no return. Taking steps to the other side. Expectations of freedom, but it wasn't written. Wormholed to killing fields with tortured souls. No respect they created with false judgment. Living where the dead play poker with bones. Number in hand and futureless in a can. Shaken, shrugged and bumped. Over here kid, need a place to stay? Tried to speak, but without the existence of a larynx. Two will be here to get me. We prayed together in the hut. Like brothers exchanged love like family. Tick, tock, but no time...

"My Queens" by: Maurice Archer

I love hip-hop
da young queen of my life
don't speak much now
she stuck me wit a knife
didn't catch me in my back
she grazed my heart yo
didn't call her a hoe
survived the blow though
everybody blow doe
Jay-Z's fault-friend or foe
that's only for the true fans
a'ight, back to my original plan

she said I stuck her first
leakin some love juices,
what don't kill you,
make you stronger
this relationship is the provin'
true, I picked up the mic
when I was younger in the game
lack of experience was obvious
now, I'm feelin the same...
pain you might've felt
like when you sold out to get fame
every positive has a negative
sh*t I realized when I felt lame
since we gonna be gone eventually
I'ma enjoy this til it's meant to be
we need to start families
and thinkin about reality
dreamin how & what to build
she got peoples minds filled
wit Bullsh*t
still I love da essence of her music
listen to old classics
when my life get drastic
neva fienin', stay dreamin'
we could really make a marriage

baby carriage-in some years
when we been through more tears
my mic in ya hand
create beautiful art & business plans
come see me when I'm wit my mans
(you so cute shorty)
Loyal & you know how to hang
speak a little hood slang,
be doin ya own thang

f*ckin in tha shower
at the kitchen table-lookin at ya
labels
wit my ni%as in the other room
I listen to her tapes & tunes
almost everywhere I go
I hear her words echo
"You neva listen to me!!"
Shut the f*ck up, so I can talk!!"
damn, I thought I listened too much
damn, you got a Sexy a\$\$ walk
I wanna smack ya pretty a\$\$
nah yo, I'm just playiinn
not really
but really
we all make mistakes
forgive all the sh*t that's fake
back is where I wanna take
my words that brought tears
almost end it right here
as for me and you
as long as the real shine through
I'ma neva have a shorty like you

Love, I got mad for you.
that's the Truth about my
music/culture.

"The Definition" by: Emecca

For eons, people have wondered
what I am
I am the definition of what you do
not understand
I'll make a woman feel like the
queen that she was born to be
I'll give a man the support and
grounding that he needs
I see people for what is truly inside
them
I cannot be bought with money or
material items
I speak not with words, but with
actions
I'll make your body an instrument
for heated passion
I am your hope in engulfing despair
I am the confidence that overcomes
your fear
My immortal attributes last eternally
I don't grow old with age, or tire in
adversity
I inspire you to be gentle and kind
And to unify with your lover in
body, soul and mind
I am what you yearn for in nights of
loneliness
Without me, hours of day move
motionless

I can't be touched with fingers, or
seen with eyes
I make you feel butterflies in your
stomach's insides
I'm therapeutic to pain, an umbrella
in rainstorms
I give power to forgive the vilest
wrong
I can make a kiss the sweet taste of
affection
I am the gift God gave you, for you
to give to
The people in your life you believe
to be special
I make you appreciate little things
life offer
Care and concern are my sons and
daughters
When you have me, you just know it
You can't confine me, no matter how
hard you oppose it
I display a force that takes over your
free will
I'll make your happiness a shield
made of steel
I am the tutelage of all that you
consist of
I am what I want you to share with
me.....True Love

The Onyx Informer

Serving the People of the African
Diaspora Since 1972.

Managing Editor Andre Jean-Francois
Business Editor Alitheia Casimir

Treasurer Rachelle Villarson

Layout Team Princess Cooper-Brown
Shaun White

Copy Editor Princess Cooper-Brown

Health MAPS-SNMA

Edutainment Jose Masso

Opinions and feelings expressed in The Onyx Informer by columnist writers, editorial writers, and "the hater" are not necessarily those of The Onyx staff or of the Northeastern administration. The Onyx is a monthly publication run by undergraduate students, who oversee all aspects and operations involving the production of this publication.

Onyx Informer
430 Curry Student Center
360 Huntington Avenue
Boston, Ma. 02115
(617) 373-2250

All poems, prose, and other expressive entries may be submitted to onyxpoetry@yahoo.com. Submissions must be e-mailed and submitted in hard copy form, with a maximum length of thirty lines for poems. All entries that are printed are copyrighted by The Onyx Informer and their respective authors. All rights reserved. The Onyx Informer reserves the right to edit submissions for layout purposes with permission from the author.

THE HATER

It's hard to believe it's already been a whole six months since the hater blessed these pages. I guess time flies when you're hating. Hopefully nobody's feelings have been hurt in the process and if they have, too bad.

It seems that even after my in-depth analysis of racism in the previous issue, people are still not fully clear on the current situation. As much as we've all had our share of covert racism, blatant acts of racial prejudice are always more fun. So, to all aspiring racists and bigots, if you really want to be successful at what you do, follow the example set by those white fraternity kids at Auhurn University who dressed up in blackface and Omega Psi Phi t-shirts to a Halloween party and even posed for pictures. Now, even if this offends you, you gotta respect the fact that they have no shame in what they do. Anyone that can say,

"I'm racist and I'm willing to get my @ss kicked by an entire Black fraternity that's known for barking more than DMX, wearing dog collars and gold boots to prove it," you can only admire their passion. I'm definitely not saying that they don't deserve to get beat down, though. The Q-dogs and any Black person within a 500-mile radius should be standing in line to stomp a mudhole in that @ss. Not me though. I'm a hater not a fighter.

And in light of the seriousness of this situation and a response I received last issue, it seems only appropriate that I take this time to apologize for the negative words I directed towards Black fraternities and sororities. But...since it's about to be World War III and we're all gonna die anyways...FORGET IT! When have I ever been known to act appropriately?

And while we're on the topic of war and racism, why is the entire country ready to go to war with a certified racist who can barely read at the driver's seat. Anyone who calls the enemy of war "evildoers" obviously can't read anything but a comic book at the most. I think stand-up comedians write his speeches. But seriously, did we forget that George W. Bush has sent more Black people to death by the electric chair than anthrax through the mail? How about the fact that he didn't even win the election? Or, how about that, in Florida, where his brother is the governor, thousands of Black people's votes were thrown out the window and thousands more were prevented from even getting to the ballots? But NOOOOO, now everyone wants to rally behind the 8th dwarf who looks like his face is made out of silly putty. I guess I shouldn't

expect anything less from people who have been preparing for war not by stocking up on trivial things like canned goods or bottled water or even a gun, but by getting the real essentials: American flags that you can wave all the way to the grave.

So, if anybody needs to find me, I'll be in the cut with Osama Bin Laden. That's obviously the safest place from this idiot called the president. If you really need to get in touch with me, you can email me at my new address, ib_hatin@hotmail.com. I changed it because I had to quit smoking weed. My boss at the post office is tripping after this anthrax situation. We'll see how long I can hold out. Until then, someone tell Jay-Z, Michael Jordan and Michael Jackson something for me? Quit while you're ahead. You're too old for what you're doing. Well, not Jay-Z, but he still needs to call it a day. You can only quote Biggie so many times and a whole album of it is pretty much when nobody wants to hear it anymore. Until the next episode, Peace in the Middle East.

Party from Pg. 9

and chill. I like to dance, but not when it feels like someone's tryin to run up in my pants, nah I mean?

So what makes a party good? I figure it depends on all the right elements: a good DJ seems to be most important, a good crowd (meaning participation), hopefully enough security in case heads start to wild out, and a good variety of choices (in my case that would be twice as many women as men). If any of the elements are off, it could make it a wack party. But just the right ingredients could make it the party of the year. Oh, how could I forget about location? Yeah, I have a whip, but what about out-of-towners that only got means of transportation through the MBTA? Sucks for them huh? There are some many things to consider. Like what if the party is bein thrown all the way out in Amherst, but the frat that's throwin it is known for throwin the best parties? That's a tough decision to decide if I should go or not. I look at all my options and then decide.

Lets say there is a party at Framingham State (FSC), a party at Wellesley, and a party at Wentworth. The one out at FSC is bein thrown by their Black student alliance, the women of Ethos are throwing the party out at Wellesley, and the Wentworth party is bein throwin by the Deltas. Which party have I heard people talkin about the most? Answer: Wellesley. Which parties are usually the wackest? Answer: Framingham State. Which party is the easiest to get to (in my case)? Answer: Wentworth. A'ight so FSC is out of the picture. Now its between Wellesley and Wentworth. Hmm... Wellesley is an all girls' school, but the Deltas are throwin the party at Wentworth. Last time I went to a party at an all girls' school, there were twice as many guys as girls. Plus not that many people have access to a car to get all the way out there. So that means that most likely students from BU, Simmons, Emmanuel, Wentworth, NU, Emerson and maybe BC will be goin to Wentworth. I think you can see where I'm gonna cast the ballot at right? Looks like I'm motivating to

Wentworth.

But for those of you that are new to the whole college party thing, or if you only go once in a while, here is the list of the top 5 best college party schools (in 1st being the best, etc.): Wentworth, BU, MIT, Wellesley and BC. Sorry NU! We don't throw the best ones, but why is it that we are always at these other schools reppin deep? Something I'll never understand.

That's it for now. Hope y'all learned some vital information for entertainment. Till next time, holla at you at the party!

*If you want your
party or event
reviewed.*

Just write to us.

Contact us:

onyxedutainment@yahoo.com

In Our Next Issue

The Return of
Ms. Nubian

"Funny Man"
Martin Lawrence

Nas...Stillmatic

The Hater

Kwanza Celebration

Piercings from Pg. 9

lar reason, whatever society feels about it, everyone may judge it the same way society does.

As far as tongue rings go, the pleasure from the ring, will make you sing. For the ladies, piercings on the genitalia are supposed to create multiple orgasms... even if you're just sitting down. Is that true? I really couldn't tell you. Nipple rings, well personally, I do not understand it myself. But I've heard that having your nipples pierced make them feel better when they are being stimulated.

Well, whatever the deal is on piercings it's all about choice, whatever you decide to do, do it. Whatever your reason is for getting the piercing you got, that's your business. Just be safe and keep that thing clean.

*If you Got Issues with any
thing in particular...*

*...let us know, we'll talk
about it!*

OnyxInformer@yahoo.com

HANG or BANG: By Killa B Da Bandit

Top 5 Albums to Bang:

1. Ghostface Killah-Bulletproof Wallets
"A Masterpiece, can't even explain it in words"
2. Ursula Rucker-Super Sista
"Spoken word that uplifts the human consciousness"
3. Bilal-First Born Second
"You can listen to this album without skipping any tracks"
4. Mystic-Cuts for Luck and Scars for Freedom
"This album should be bought on the title alone, but it holds it's own weight"
5. Rushya/Phastlife Dynasty-Compilation Vol. 1
"For that Boston gangsta ish to pump in your ride or the club"

Top 5 Albums to Hang:

1. DMX-The Great Depression
"The title explains it all"
2. Mary J. Blige-No More Drama
"I think that is what she needs on this album, just that MJB drama is missing"
3. Fabolous- Ghetto Fabolous
"Who cares?"
4. Juvenile-Project English
"On Juve's latest Project, I heard no English..."
5. Coo Coo Cal- Disturbed
"Based on the title, that is how I felt after listening to it"

ONYXSPORTS

You can't win unless you learn how to lose.

- Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Huskies Find Key To Success

by: The Onyx Sports Squad

There must be a bug or sickness that is spreading across on Huntington Avenue. For some reason many of the sports teams have been hit with a winning virus. For the first time in recent years, NU sports teams have enjoyed the bitter sweet taste of victory. As the collegiate sports season shifts into winter season, many fall sport teams had the opportunity to bring home conference titles as well as a chance to participate in the NCAA Tournaments in their respective sports.

It seems as if the Women Huskies are making moves to bring Northeastern on the sports map. On Tuesday, November 27, 2001 the women's volleyball team was selected to make their first appearance ever in the NCAA Championship.



Volleyball team celebrates announcement of their placement in the NCAA Championship.

ship. The Lady Huskies will take on the University of Texas, who posted a 16-12 record during the regular season. The Huskies are looking to continue their success that has already provided them with their first America East Conference title.

The women's hockey team, started off the season no other way than just being perfect. The Huskies started off the season 10-0-0, marking one of the best starts for the team in years. The Huskies eventually suffered their first loss during the Thanksgiving break, with a 1-0 loss to Niagara. Despite the loss, the Lady Huskies are still on top in league play. With Chanda Gunn in between the poles this season, there's a good chance that the Huskies will finish off the season



Gunn is maintaining a .936 save percentage this season.

strong. When many people around New England hear the name Brady, they associate it with Brady of the New England Patriots. Well the Huskies have their own Brady, Shawn Brady. In his freshman year he has been able to help turn the football team around. He

wasn't alone in the teams success. The team was lead by tailback L.J. McKanas who charged the way for the Huskies to a 5-6 record. Besides the fact the team finished off the season below five-hundred, it was still a successful season. After starting off slowly, the team picked up the pace towards the end of the season and picked up key wins. With Brady in the pocket and many returning players for next years

squad, the Huskies have a lot to look forward too.

Out with the old and in with the new, Coach Everhart of the men's basketball team has given the men's program something to look forward too. With many new players on the squad, the team has definitely shown that they are a better group and headed in the right direction



Coach Everhart has many new goals to attain this season.

than they have been in recent years. The Huskies who are 0-5 this season, have come close in all of there games. In a matter of time, after the team has had a chance to adjust with each other, we'll see this team become a contender in the newly re-shaped America East Conference.

HEY, JUST THINK...

... YOUR CUSTOMERS COULD BE READING YOUR AD RIGHT NOW.

Submit your ad to the Onyx Informer!

For information on prices and sizes

send inquiries to Onyxadvertising@yahoo.com or call 617-373-2250